

Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 TRSE-00 INSE-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 /099 W

----- 002445

R 192254Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7073

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR/MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: FURTHER REACTIONS

REF: MEXICO 5307

1. SUMMARY: AS ANTICIPATED (REFTEL) FONSECRETARY RABASA MADE FURTHER COMMENTS TO PRESS JULY 18 CONCERNING BORDER SURVEILLANCE MEASURES. RABASA QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT MORE EFFICACIOUS MEANS TO RESOLVE ILLEGAL PROBLEM WOULD BE THROUGH NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT RATHER THAN BY CONTROVERSIAL CONTROL MEASURES. JULY 19 EDITORIAL COMMENT IS BOTH EXTENSIVE AND SHRILL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETING WITH PRESS FOLLOWING CEREMONY IN WHICH FRENCH GOVERNMENT ADHERED TO PROTOCOL II OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, FONSECRETARY RABASA COMMENTED FURTHER ON SURVEILLANCE MEASURES ALONG COMMON MEXICO-US FRONTIER. ESSENCE OF HIS STATEMENT WAS THAT THERE ARE MORE EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE WAYS TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF MEXICAN ILLEGALS. HE REFERRED TO A PERCEIVED NEED FOR BOTH NATIONS TO ARRIVE AT A NEW AGREEMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT MEXICAN COMMISSION IS "EXCHANGING INFORMATION" WITH COUNTERPARTS IN WASHINGTON, AND CONTINUED THAT "I HOPE THAT OUT OF THIS WILL EMERGE

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A JOINT SOLUTION". ACCORDING TO NOVEDADES ACCOUNT,

RABASA RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS BY SAYING THAT GOM TO DATE HAS NOT CONSIDERED FORMAL COMPLAINT TO USG, MUCH LESS CARRYING ITS CASE TO OAS OR OTHER ORGANIZATION. THIS IS A "BILATERAL PROBLEM WHICH CERTAINLY WILL BE RESOLVED BY BOTH COUNTRIES IN A DIRECT MANNER."

3. JULY 19 EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS BOTH EXTENSIVE AND SHRILL IN TONE. IT IS CLEAR THAT ISSUE OF FENCE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE HAS BECOME BLURRED IN PUBLIC MIND WITH USE OF ELECTRONIC DETECTORS. IN EL DIA COMMENTARY BY MIGUEL COVIAN PEREZ (ONE TIME MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO CUBA) HE WROTE "GOM NOW HAS REQUESTED EXPLANATION. ABOUT WHAT? ABOUT WHY THEY LIED TO RABASA? ABOUT CRUDELNESS OF USG IN NOT NOTIFYING US IN ADVANCE OF THEIR PLANS? IT IS TRUE THAT NOTHING OBLIGES AMERICANS SINCE THEY ARE WITHIN THEIR RIGHT IN TAKING MEASURES FOR TERRITORIAL SECURITY WHICH ARE MOST CONVENIENT TO THEM, ALWAYS MAKING SURE THAT THESE MEASURES DO NOT VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND, OF COURSE, THAT THEY DO NOT HARM OUR SOVEREIGNTY...BUT IF THERE HAD BEEN A FRIENDLY GESTURE OF DIPLOMATIC DELICACY TO WHICH THE POWERFUL ARE NOT ACCUSTOMED, THEY WOULD HAVE ADVISED US THAT THEY WERE GOING TO PUT ANOTHER LOCK ON THE DOOR WHICH DIVIDES OUR BUILDINGS...WHAT IS THE TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE MEASURES AND THEIR FORM OF OPERATION? THIS MIGHT HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST FOR US, IF ALSO DETERMINED WERE THE COST AND POSSIBILITY OF A TRANSNATIONAL COMPANY WHICH COULD INSTALL A SIMILAR BARRIER WHICH WE COULD MANAGE FROM HERE. THAT (BEING INSTALLED) IS OPENED AND CLOSED ARBITRARILY BY OUR DISCOURTEOUS NEIGHBORS. THEY WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE CONTROL. IT WOULD BE WELL TO CONFRONT THEM WITH ANOTHER LOCK, THE KEY TO WHICH WE WOULD KEEP. BECAUSE IF THEY ARE BOTHERED BY BRACEROS AND DRUGS, WE SHOULD BE VERY MUCH MORE BOTHERED BY THE TRAFFIC IN ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS".

4. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "BARRIERS OF NON-COMMUNICATION", EXCELSIOR STATED THAT MEASURES IN QUESTION ARE INDICATIVE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS BARRIER WHICH HAS EXISTED WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR A LONG TIME. EDITORIALIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATED THAT DISTINCT CULTURAL PATTERNS, LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES, AND RESPECTIVE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS PROFOUNDLY SEPARATE TWO COUNTRIES. EDITORIAL ENDS BY STATING THAT "I HOPE THAT SOME TIME WHEN JUSTICE PREVAILS THESE BARRIERS WHICH PRESENTLY SEEM INSURMOUNTABLE WILL COME DOWN AND AUTHENTIC AND FRATERNAL COMMUNICATION WILL BE ESTABLISHED."

5. SEMI-OFFICIAL EL NACIONAL TERMED USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES "STRANGE" SINCE MEXICO IS NEITHER AT WAR WITH US NOR DOES IT HARBOR ANY HOSTILE INTENTIONS. AFTER SURMISING THAT TRAFFIC IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAS GONE ON WITH COGNIZANCE BY SOME US OFFICIALS, EDITORIAL STATES THAT "IN ANY CASE, MEXICO HAS A RIGHT TO AN OFFICIAL DETAILED EXPLANATION ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS, PURPOSES AND EXTENT OF THIS FRONTIER INSTALLATION. NOT BECAUSE OUR COUNTRY PRETENDS TO INTERFERE IN A SUBJECT WHICH IS OF EXCLUSIVE COMPETENCE WITHIN THE US, BUT BECAUSE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CASE IS ESSENTIAL TO EVALUATE THE DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH MIGHT PERTAIN IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

6. IN ANOTHER SIGNED EL DIA EDITORIAL, JORGE ALBERTO LOZOYA (PHD IN HISTORY FROM STANFORD) GOES THROUGH RATHER FLIMSY ARGUMENTS TO CONCLUDE THAT ELECTRONIC DETECTORS WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE IN DETERRING EITHER FLOW OF DRUGS OR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. REFLECTING WHAT EMBASSY BELIEVES TO BE HIS OWN DEEP-SEATED RESENTMENT OF THE US, (BUT AN ATTITUDE WHICH IS ALWAYS JUST UNDER THE SURFACE AMONGST MANY MEXICANS) LOZOYA STATED THAT MEXICANS GENERALLY CONCEIVE OF THE AMERICAN "WAY OF LIFE" IN TERMS OF TV, LIQUIFIERS, RADIOS AND HAIRDRYERS. "WHAT THEY DO NOT SEEM TO WANT TO RELATE (TO AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE) IS TECHNOLOGY WITH BOMBING OF VIETNAM, DEFOLIANTS, NAPALM, LASER RAYS, SPACE TRAVEL, AND NOW ELECTRONIC BARRIERS ON THAT SIDE OF THE RIO GRANDE. US IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST TECHNOLOGICAL AND MILITARY POWER. THEN WHY DO THEY HAVE TO GUARD THEIR FRONTIER WITH PEOPLE ARMED WITH RIFLES? TO MAKE US FEEL LESS POOR AND MORE PARTICIPATORY IN THEIR BONANZA? WE WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEE IF THESE MEASURES MAKE US REACT AND, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, PUT US IN OUR PLACE. MEXICO WOULD COME OUT AHEAD."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MEXICO05342
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730723/aaaaaqvf.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 MEXICO 5307
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: FURTHER REACTIONS
TAGS: PBOR, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005